

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 17, 2004, Applicants have, by the above amendments, canceled claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 12-23, and amended claim 5. Accordingly, remaining in the application is independent claim 5; independent claim 8 with its dependent claim 9; and independent claim 10 with its dependent claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 8-11 are allowed and that claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, by the above amendment, claim 5 has been rewritten into independent form and is allowable.

As to the reasons for allowance over the cited references that are stated in the Office Action, Applicants agree that for at least the reasons identified by the Examiner, the above-identified patent application is allowable. However, Applicants do not agree that the identified reasons for allowance are the only reasons for allowance of the claims over the cited references. Therefore, while Applicants believe the claims are allowable, Applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides in only the features and/or reasons identified by the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

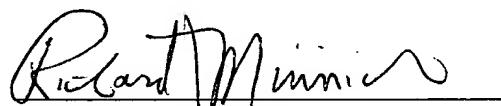
It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and discussion are fully responsive to the latest Office Action and that the claims are in proper form and patentably distinguish over the art of record. Having addressed all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections, the subject application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowability are earnestly solicited.

Alternatively, in the interests of compact prosecution and advancing this application to issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss any of the foregoing with which there may be some controversy or confusion and/or to make any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

June 17, 2004



Richard J. Minnich
Reg. No. 24,175
1100 Superior Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

Certificate of Mailing

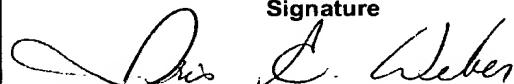
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

transmitted via facsimile in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.

deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No.:
Date
June 17, 2004

Signature

Printed Name
Iris E. Weber